

MINUTES
SEX OFFENDER RESIDENCE BOARD
Wednesday, November 13, 2013
City Hall, Room 310
2:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Dean Gerondale, Ben Heiman, Kathy De Cremer, Heidi Michel, Renee Keehan

ALSO PRESENT: Ald. Tim De Wane, Ald. Tom De Wane, Ald. Jerry Wiezbiskie

The meeting was called to order by Dean Gerondale.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion made by Kathy De Cremer to approve the October 9, 2013 Minutes, seconded by Ben Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. APPEALS

Motion made by Ben Heiman and seconded by Renee Keehan to move letter (b) up on the agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked how many appeals the Board averages per month. Dean Gerondale stated the average is seven to ten; however, one month there were sixteen.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked if there is a time frame for appeals. Dean Gerondale stated people can appeal as many times as they like. Meetings are held once a month; however, if there is an extenuating circumstance, Dean can schedule a special meeting as long as there is a quorum.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked what criteria the Board uses when making a decision. Dean stated nothing in the Ordinance specifies how they are to come to a decision. Each Board Member has his own set of criteria. Dean does believe, however, they all take into account whether they think the person could reoffend or put the community at risk.

Dean stated that if an offender does come before the Board more than one time, they ask what has changed since they saw him last (if he is employed, going to treatment, etc.). The Board has approved people for a specific amount of time, having that person come back at a future date with treatment documentation.

- b. Appeal of Joshua D. Arcand requesting to move to 899 Liberty Street

Joshua appeared in person. Dean Gerondale advised Joshua of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Joshua appeared before the Board on August 14, 2013. He was incarcerated at that time. He was released yesterday.

Dean stated that the issue last time was the number of sex offenders living in this particular area.

Joshua stated he works full time and plans on going to school in January. He also goes to Innovative Counseling once a month. Joshua provided the Board Members with treatment documentation showing he has been attending for several years. Dean indicated he also provided several letters of support from family members and friends stating Joshua is not a risk to the community.

Renee Keehan clarified there are currently three offenders in this area. The eight that were reported at the previous meeting covered a larger area.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Joshua Arcand, address specific, ***for a period of 90 days***, was made by Renee Keehan, seconded by Heidi Michel. Renee feels this will give the neighborhood time to express any concerns.

Dean Gerondale is not opposed to the 90 days, but he would also like Joshua to provide documentation that he is still going to Innovative Counseling, that he is currently employed and that he has signed up for AODA classes. Joshua was instructed to come to the February 12, 2014 Board meeting. He does not need to fill out another appeal form. If he does not appear at the February meeting, he will be revoked. Joshua understands and asked that he be first on the February agenda so he is not late for work.

All in favor. Motion carried.

- a. Appeal of Raymond Collen requesting to move to 1021 Lincoln Street

Raymond appeared in person. Dean Gerondale advised Raymond of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Raymond stated he met the victim at a neighbor's house. He knew the victim's sister and was at the sister's house earlier that evening. The victim was there as well as some of her sister's friends. The victim told Raymond she was 19 years of age. Raymond's friend knocked on the bedroom door and said the victim was only 15. Raymond immediately got dressed, went home, called the police and explained what

happened. He hired a lawyer and ended up being charged with second degree sexual assault. He served four years in prison and is now on six years probation.

Raymond is going to school full time and is also looking for a part-time job. He gave the Board documentation of SOT meetings, AA meetings and school registration. Raymond stated that in SOT they learn about relapse prevention, triggers, how to make right decisions and what types of situations to avoid. Raymond thinks it's a good program, enjoys attending and has learned a lot about himself and other people. He is glad he is going through it.

Raymond is going to school to be a CNC Technician (Computer Numerical Control) to operate computerized machines. He said it's going okay but it's difficult for him because he didn't go to high school. He is quite a bit behind most people. He admits he screwed up when he was younger and dropped out of school.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Raymond Collen, address specific, was made by Heidi Michel, seconded by Kathy De Cremer. All in favor. Motion carried.

c. Appeal of Samuel Brandt requesting to move to 471 S. Huron Road

Samuel appeared in person. Dean Gerondale advised Samuel of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Samuel came before the Board on August 29, 2013 and was not approved to live at 471 S. Huron Road. Dean Gerondale asked Samuel what he has been doing since that time. Samuel stated that twice a day, five days a week, he has been going to the Job Center. He's had a few interviews and is honest about his offense. He has not heard back from them. Samuel stated he is also receiving SOT counseling.

Samuel gave the Board Members SOT documentation indicating he attends weekly. They discuss things such as relapse prevention. Samuel had been placing blame on others but he now blames himself.

Samuel also attends a group called "Circles of Support." This is open to anyone who is on probation or parole, not specifically sex offenders. Samuel received a couple job leads through this support group.

The reason Samuel has not considered the TLP is because his agent said he didn't qualify, nor was there room for him. Heidi Michel stated one reason he may not qualify is because there are others with higher priorities, such as an SBN. Dean Gerondale asked Samuel if he's looked in Allouez or De Pere since they don't have any restrictions. Samuel stated that he has no income for rent and it's difficult to get a job without a permanent address.

Dean asked if the State could give him rent money for the short term. Samuel was told the State didn't do that; however, Dean said the State has helped others.

Heidi Michel asked Samuel where he has been staying in the meantime. Samuel said he rotates between his mom's (471 Huron Road), his dad's (Allouez) and his sister's. Samuel cannot live with his father because it's near a school, the YMCA and a soccer field and his agent probably wouldn't approve it. His sister also lives near a school. Samuel does not want to live in those areas because it would be safer for him and everyone involved if he didn't. He stated he is on a GPS.

Heidi Michel asked Samuel if he's had any rule violations since being released from prison. Samuel stated he has not. He has a curfew from 9:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m.

Other than job searching, Kathy De Cremer asked Samuel how he is spending his time. Samuel stated he likes to read, crochet and watch TV. When he stays with his sister, he helps around the house and mows the lawn.

Dean asked Samuel if any potential employers actually said they would not hire him because he doesn't have a permanent place to live? Samuel stated he hasn't heard back from any potential employer and is not sure why. It could be due to the media coverage he's receiving.

Heidi Michel asked Samuel if chaperones accompany him when he is out in public places. Samuel stated he will go alone to individual stores, but if he goes to the mall, he has a chaperone with him. He feels nervous when he is alone because he thinks people are watching him. If he encounters a child in a store, he turns and walks away. His mother and step-father are approved chaperones.

Samuel has been seeing Jim Drake weekly since the 9th of September.

Public Comments:

Julie Cole, 471 S. Huron Road, Green Bay. Julie is Samuel's mother. Samuel has complied with all the rules set up for him. Julie and Bill (Samuel's step-father) try to keep Samuel busy with projects around the house. Julie stated Sam is looking forward to getting a job and eventually his own place, probably not in Green Bay. Julie and Bill are Sam's chaperones. When Sam is with them, he stays inside. Sam is not usually alone because Julie's husband is retired and Julie only works three days a week. Julie stated she has not, personally, received any feedback from their neighbors.

Bill Cole, 471 S. Huron Road, Green Bay. Bill agrees with everything Julie said. As chaperones, they have read and signed off on all the regulations. Bill and Julie believe Sam is a sex offender and have believed it since he told them 8 years ago. They believed he should be sent to jail and punished, which he was. They do not believe they know he is a sex offender. They don't believe he should be punished for the rest of

his life. He has served his time and deserves a chance to live in a place that will support him. That is what they are offering him.

Sam does not want to live with them for the rest of his life. No adult wants to come back and live with his parents. He needs to come back because he can't afford to live anywhere else. If he gets a job and can afford to pay rent, they will help him settle any place the Board approves. The first thing Sam needs is stability and that's what they can offer him at this time.

Ald. Jerry Wiezbiskie (District 1). Ald. Wiezbiskie's concern, which Sam himself expressed, is that he should not be around children and schools. This is not a good location for him. Ald. Wiezbiskie believes Sam is spending a lot of time at the Huron Road address and can't understand if he was denied to stay there, why his mother and step-father are letting him break the law. Ald. Wiezbiskie thinks he should check into getting monetary assistance from the State. Dean Gerondale stated that would be decided by his parole officer. Ald. Wiezbiskie realizes this committee gets no input from City Council and makes its own decisions. Samuel is in a "catch 21" situation. He has no place to live and is having difficulty getting a job. Now he wants to live in an area which could set him up to fail.

Ashley Johnson, (address unclear). Ashley stated it's very difficult for anyone in her neighborhood to come before the Board and speak against Mr. Brandt's placement. They don't want to hurt his parents but she owes it to her neighbors and their children to make a statement.

Ashley said that since July, when Mr. Brandt requested to live in their neighborhood, the dynamics have changed. Their security is violated and their children's carefree attitudes are gone. Sam has been staying with his parents for multiple days because his car is seen there. Vicki, the Coles' next door neighbor with three daughters who spoke at the last meeting, has since decided to leave her home and rent a duplex in a different area. Vicki told Ashley her girls came inside and told her "the neighbor man offered them an apple." The Coles' yard has apple trees but she didn't quiz her girls about it because she didn't want them to have nightmares. Vicki feels it is unfair that people are now being forced out of their homes because of the discomfort being created in their neighborhood.

Ashley and her neighbors do not feel this would be a temporary arrangement just until Samuel gets on his feet. One option is for him to sell his car to use for rent money and then rely on public transportation.

Ashley is concerned because Samuel has never said he was sorry or shown any remorse for the pain he's caused his victim. He only says he made a mistake. While the neighbors wish Mr. Brandt success, a step to his recovery would be realizing this is not a safe environment for him.

As a survival of childhood sexual abuse, Ashley stated the actions of offenders haunt their victims forever and can potentially destroy children's lives. Most of the victims live a life of guilt and shame. Ashley feels offenders should not be entitled to live a life free of the shame, pain and guilt which their victims feel. He paid his debt by serving time, and he may say he'll not reoffend, but no one can say for certain that will never happen. They are not willing to take that risk.

Ashley asked the Board to stop punishing them by continuing to let Mr. Brandt make an appeal to live at this address. They ask that he again be denied and the decision be made final with no future appeals granted.

Glenn Rank, 508 Terrace Lake Lane, Green Bay. Some of the Board Members were not present at last month's meeting, and Glenn asked if everyone had a chance to read the Minutes. Since he spoke at that meeting, he will not repeat what he said at that time.

Glenn stated he was recently asked to be a merit badge counselor for the Boy Scouts. To get certified, he was required to go on line and take a youth protection training course. Glenn is also a volunteer coach and had to get Virtis training before hand. These things were required of him, an upstanding citizen in the community. Glenn wonders what special training Sam's chaperones received, if any.

Heidi Michel stated chaperones do need to get approved and there is a process for this. They are required to report any violations. Glenn does not understand why Sam's chaperones are allowing him to live at a location he was denied and does not feel they are dependable.

Dean Gerondale explained that the Board operates under the City Ordinance whereas probation officers are directed by the State. The State has not always complied with the City Ordinance when it comes to placing sexual offenders.

Glenn believes if this Board wants to have any credibility, they should deny Samuel's request to live on Huron Road. If they do not deny him, this could potentially allow other offenders to do the same by letting chaperones knowingly violate their decisions.

Dean explained that there is a \$500.00 fine per day for the offender and the property owner if they violate the Ordinance. Violations can be reported to the police department. If Samuel has been living with his parents, he is in violation of the Ordinance. Dean stated that if an offender's parole officer knowingly allows that person to violate the City's Ordinance, the parole officer puts that person at risk.

Glenn stated he understands that Samuel's parents want to support him and help him get established, but Glenn thinks they should offer support at a different location.

Dean stated the reason offenders come before the Board more than once is because their situations can change. They could now be employed, etc. Risk factors are

different for each individual and that is why the Board always asks them what has changed since they last appeared before them. Glenn does not feel the risk factors will change in this situation.

Dean asked Glenn if he is aware there are other sex offenders in this area. Glenn stated he is aware of this, but does not feel those offenses were as severe. He is not the type of individual who would go against every application, but feels strongly about this case. Glenn's concern is that if Samuel is approved and eventually gets a job, they would have no recourse. That is why it is important to deny him at this time. Not much has changed with Samuel's situation in the past two months.

Ald. Tom De Wane (District 2). Ald. De Wane does not believe a person should be allowed to appeal more than one time and he plans on discussing it at City Council.

Ald. De Wane believes Mr. Brandt is staying at this address the majority of the time. He has a false sense of security being told he can stay there three days on, one day off. This interpretation by the law department is not correct and he will pursue this further with the police department and judges. Ald. De Wane is bothered by the anger exhibited by Mr. Brandt's step-father and him living in this type of atmosphere.

Ald. De Wane is more concerned today than he was previously because Mr. Brandt said he is worried about living at his father's house because of a school being nearby. The same is true at his sister's house. Why would he be less worried living at parents' house which has double the parks, child care, young girls who golf in his back yard and little girls living next door? He stated that when he is in a store, the first thing he does when he sees a child is go the other way. Ald. De Wane stated Mr. Brandt may have done his time, but he's still concerned when he is near schools and children.

Dean Gerondale explained that part of any sexual offender's training is to recognize and avoid triggers. Walking away from a child is not necessarily a bad thing.

Ald. De Wane stated the City Council will go back and fix the current interpretation of the Ordinance. Ald. De Wane stated he is disappointed Mr. Brandt has been released. Ald. De Wane stated he does not dispute every appeal, but he is totally against an exemption in this case.

John DeMeuse (sp?), from the Woods Golf Club. John was asked to speak on behalf of The Woods Golf Course. John admits it's a difficult situation. John has known Mr. Brandt's stepdad for 10 years. He's a good man and plays golf at The Woods. John feels this is not a good area for Mr. Brandt to live because the golf course is in their back yard and there is a junior golf program at the golf course. A baseball diamond is located up the road and is used by little girls up to high school aged girls, 5 days a week. There is also a park around the corner.

Renee Tilkens, 481 Debby Lane. Renee pointed out that Mr. Brandt stated he has been in compliance since being released. His mother also said he's been compliant.

It's very clear that both of them have lied and Renee is very concerned about that. Renee has two daughters. She does not trust Mr. Brandt's parents. At the last meeting, his mother stated: "My son is not a predator or a molester." At the last meeting, Mr. Brandt stated his wife neglected him. Although today he said he's learning to take responsibility for his actions, a month and a half ago he blamed the victim and his wife. A transformation can't come in that short of time. Renee's other concern is that at the age of 19, Mr. Brandt displayed inappropriate behavior with young girls and at 43, he was caught. What happened between the ages of 19 and 43? We don't know.

Dean Gerondale stated Mr. Brandt may not be in compliance with the City's Ordinance, but he is in compliance with the state. Dean confirmed this with his parole officer.

Renee feels it comes down to whether or not Mr. Brandt is ready to move into a neighborhood with children. She feels the answer is "no."

Ryan Johnson, 326 Parkland. Ryan feels the real issue is whether or not anything has changed with Mr. Brandt in the last month and a half. Someone who is not employed is not stable, in Ryan's opinion. Ryan has a difficult time believing Samuel can't find a job, especially since he has a vehicle. If his parents and relatives love him as much as they say they do, why can't they help him out until he gets on his feet?. Can it be verified he applied at the TLP and was turned down? Can he apply for help from the State? There are more kids in this neighborhood than near his father's house. Ryan said it's difficult for everyone having to come here month after month and Mr. Brandt should be denied once and for all.

Dean Gerondale pointed out that the Board is a group of citizens trying to make the best decision for Mr. Brandt and the community. Their number one question is whether or not they feel he could reoffend.

Mr. Brandt stated he disagrees with the comments about him being a threat to the neighborhood. He doesn't sit out on the front porch scoping out every kid that goes by. He only goes out in the yard with a chaperone. He doesn't stare out the windows. He tries to be gone as often as possible to look for a job.

Dean asked Samuel if seeing Mr. Drake has helped him. Samuel said it has because he no longer blames other people for what happened. He now puts the blame on himself. He admits it's difficult to admit you made a mistake, but everyone makes mistakes. How many people are alcoholics that are driving around town with no licenses? A lot of people. There are probably a lot of alcoholics in this neighborhood who have never been caught.

Samuel stated he doesn't go out looking for children. He has a daughter that's in the same class as a girl in the neighborhood. He hasn't had any contact with her or his ex-wife since being released. He doesn't want them exposed to the media. They should be kept safe and anonymous. Samuel feels he's doing what the Board has asked. He's

now in treatment and admits it's not a short term thing. He's doing the best he can. He doesn't go out cruising parks and schools. He practices avoidance behaviors. The biggest reason he avoids them is so that he doesn't have cameras or people who know what he's done making a scene. That would be more dramatic to any children in the store than him just leaving.

A motion to approve the appeal of Samuel Brandt, address specific, was made by Renee Keehan, seconded by Heidi Michel.

Discussion: Dean Gerondale stated a big issue with him is that treatment documentation is usually only a form letter. It doesn't say how the person is doing. They probably don't want to be held responsible for saying someone won't reoffend in case they do. Although Samuel has served his time, Dean does not think he's had enough time to bring his risk factors down. Ben Heiman agrees.

Kathy De Cremer is "on the fence" at this time.

Renee Keehan pointed out that the Board always stresses how important family support is. She still feels living with his parents is better than him being homeless. He won't be staying with his parents forever.

Dean Gerondale feels there are other alternatives (Allouez or De Pere). Does he really want to live in a place that despises him? It will be like living in a prison which is not good for the mind.

Two in favor, three against (Heiman, Gerondale, De Cremer). Motion failed.

Samuel stated he can't believe people would feel safer not knowing where he is instead of knowing where he is living.

d. Appeal of Jose Perez requesting to move to 609 Edward Drive

Jose Perez failed to appear.

A motion to DENY the appeal of Jose Perez was made by Heidi Michel, seconded by Ben Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.

4. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting date of December 11, 2013 was confirmed.

A motion adjourn was made by Kathy De Cremer, seconded by Renee Keehan. All in favor. Motion carried.